

being terribly gouged. And this free high tuition issue incites a lot of people to litigation and to agitation and to attempt to work for change and I think it's time that we as a Legislature attempt rationally to put the matter to rest. Now Senator Lamb says well, the best way to put it at rest is to permit the receiving district to charge no more than 150 percent of actual cost. My sense is that that will still be deemed unfair by the taxpayers of the sending district and I think the time has finally come for us to simply say that we're not going to permit that receiving district to charge more than the actual cost. We're not going to let it charge more than the actual cost, and so that is what Senator DeCamp is proposing that we do. Don't let them take 150 percent or in this case, don't let them take 500 percent. Let them take 100 percent of actual cost. So I am going to support Senator DeCamp's amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: May I introduce some guests, please, in the north balcony, guests of Senator Labeledz and Senator Tim Hall, we have 45 third graders from St. Agnes School in Omaha...eighth grade students, and their teachers. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. Thank you. I understand that Senator Labeledz has a daughter Toni with the group and a grandson Shane. Would you two please stand so we can see who you are. Thank you, and thanks to all of you for visiting us today. Senator Withem, did you wish to speak on this? All right.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, I would like to speak both conceptually and procedurally to what we are doing here. First of all, what we are doing now is arguing the fine points of the per pupil expenditure method of reimbursing education. I know Senator DeCamp favors that approach. Senator Johnson, by his remarks, seemed to favor that approach. The current statute is we use a tax equity approach, not a per pupil expenditure. We don't charge Senator David Landis, for instance, fewer dollars now in tax money to support the Lincoln school because he is not sending students to high school. We value his property at as high a level as his neighbors. What we're saying by tax equity is we do the same thing with the Class I districts that are using the school. Anybody that lives in that Class I district has an obligation to support the high school. That's the concept behind it. If you adopt this amendment to the DeCamp amendment, we're continuing to refine the concept of per pupil expenditure. This